



The American volleyball women's team attack during their match with the USSR-2 team.

Photo by Igor Utkin

USA comes out on top

The US 1992 world bronze medalists did splendidly at an international women's volleyball tournament in Moscow's Dynamo Palace of Sport, winning all their three games, successfully beating ex-world champions Cuba, 3-0, the USSR (2nd), 3-0, and the USSR (1st), 3-1. The winners showed many interesting tactical and technical innovations.

HOT SPRING FOR CHESS PLAYERS

The 54th national championship in Moscow will start on April 3 with an outstanding field of three world champion Anatoly Karpov, world ex-champion Tigran Petrosian and Mikhail Tal, two-time national champion Lev Polugayevsky and challenger Boris Yeliseyev. The match will be held in the city of Moscow.

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ANXIETY AND OPTIMISM OF IOC PRESIDENT

It was a successful session. It was with these words that IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch summed up the 88th session of the International Olympic Committee. He stressed the importance of the fact that it had been held in the Indian capital, which would help promote the Olympic movement in that part of Asia.

The session discussed organizational matters and heard reports by the Organizing Committees of the 1984 Winter and Summer Olympics. Ashwini Kumar, of India, was elected IOC First Vice-President.

The session fully approved of the work of the Organizing Committee for the Sarajevo Winter Olympics.

As for the Los Angeles Olympics, the president emphasized, there are problems. One of the most serious of these is the threat to the shooting contest since the organizers have failed to find a place for it in Los Angeles and are planning to hold it in Las Vegas in neighbouring Nevada. The issue is so serious that the president made an announcement to the effect that it is impossible to hold the Games without this sport.

IOC is equally worried by the unsettled issue of dope control, for there is no suitable laboratory to carry out checks in the United States, the nearest one being in Montreal.

As for Regulation 26 of the Olympic Charter on athletes' admission to the competitions, Samaranch emphasized that IOC was at one on this issue with all international federations with the exception of the Football and Hockey federations. He said nevertheless he believed that the question could still be solved.



Olympic champion Muscovite Natalya Petrusova in action during the 1988 world all-around final in Moscow.

FOOTBALL IN EUROPE

Last Wednesday was a European soccer field day as six European championship elimination games were held in various countries.

In Group 6, Northern Ireland edged Turkey 2-1 at home and in Tirana, West Germany had a similar win over Albania. Austria leads the group with six points from three games.

In Group 1, the GDR lost to Belgium 1-2 in Leipzig and Scotland and Switzerland played to 2-2 draw in Glasgow. Belgium leads the group standings with three wins in three games.

Vladimir Molodtsov

GYMNASTICS IN THE LIMELIGHT ANEW

The "Moscow News" compilation over gymnasts from 31 countries set off for Rio for the "Amber Horse" and the "Amber Beam" tournament.

In the men's event, winner Artur Akopyan, 21, of the USSR, scored 57.2 points to compare, "Moscow News" winner Dmitry Bilezherov, 20, scored 56.0. Noted former gymnast Boris Shakhlin said that Akopyan will rise up to Soviet specialists' expectations this season.

Second best allrounder Fu Lunlog, of China, who was ninth in Moscow, scored 57.15 points. He was followed by the USSR's Igor Radionov, who scored 56.8 points.

In addition to Akopyan, the prize was contested by his teammates Alexander Tkachov,

world and 1980 Olympic champion, and national champion Alexander Tkachov.

At the "Amber Horse" and the "Amber Beam" tournament, placed fourth with 56.2 points and Sut came fifth with 56.2.

Tatyana Prolova, of the USSR (born in 1967), was the top female allrounder with 56.2 points (Yurchenko won in 1988 with 56.2 points).

Alla Myznik, also of the USSR, who won the 1987 "Moscow News" prize, placed second this time with 56.2 points.

For the Soviet and many foreign gymnasts, the two events were elimination tests as it was for the women's European championship due to be held on May 7 and 8, and the men's, May 26-28, in Bulgaria.



Dnestr Shakhtyor beat Moscow Dynamo 1-0 and now share national championship lead with Yerevan Ararat.

Photo by Yuri Tsvetkov

Yassir ARAFAT: PLO REJECTS USA PLAN

Amman. Severe condemnation of the Israeli policies on occupied Arab lands has been levelled by the PLO Executive Council Chairman Yassir Arafat. Speaking at a press conference here, he said the actions by the Israeli extremists and reprisals against the Palestinian people should be regarded as war crimes. Tel Aviv is carrying out undisguised genocide against the Palestinians.

The Palestinian leader rejected the American idea for a Middle East settlement and said that the PLO could not accept the Reagan plan, as the United States is giving unlimited support and backing to the Israeli aggressors, encouraging Tel Aviv to commit new crimes. He declared that the PLO gave full support to the Arab peace plan adopted at the Arab summit in Paz.

Yassir Arafat said that at a meeting of the PLO Executive Council here the situation on the West Bank of Jordan had been examined and it had been decided to send a message in the United Nations and to a number of other international organizations with an appeal that immediate action be taken to put an end to Tel Aviv's crimes on occupied territory.

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GROMYKO REPLIES to REAGAN

If the position of the United States will be such as was announced by the president, there are no chances of an agreement. Andrei Gromyko stated this in connection with the Soviet-American talks in Geneva on medium-range nuclear weapons.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow, the First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR emphasized that President Reagan's "intermediate option" is unacceptable for the following reasons:

● First, it leaves out the British and French medium-range weapons, including 102 missiles.

● Second, it leaves out many hundreds of American aircraft-carrying nuclear weapons, based in Western Europe and on aircraft carriers.

● Third, Soviet medium-range missiles would be subject to elimination in the Asian part of the USSR as well, although they are in no way related to Europe.

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Round the Soviet Union

● THE BUILDERS OF AN OIL PLATFORM 100 KILOMETRES FROM BAKU IN THE CASPIAN SEA WERE ABLE TO USE DRILLING FLUID FOR WELLS TWICE. They have commissioned a purification complex which will save hundreds of tonnes of this valuable raw material. Baku and at 1983 such complex will be built at other Azerbaijan oil fields, too.

● THE REGIONAL EXPOSITION OF MODEL SHIPS AT THE

YAROSLAVL HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE MUSEUM RESERVE IS A PARADE OF SEA VESSELS. Assembled by skilled amateurs, the model ship replicas show the history of world sailing since Columbus' carved and sail ships to modern electric diesel ships.

● THE MINSK METRO BUILDERS HAVE RESOLVED A COMPLEX HYDROTECHNICAL TASK. At one of the construction sections they put the River Svisloch into large-diameter pipes. This is necessary for tunneling under the river bed. Efficient technological solutions have allowed expedient metro construction in the Byelorussian capital.

Aeroflot

In the summer season



Aeroflot planes fly to 117 places in 34 countries, and 22 airlines always from 31 nations have air communication with the USSR. USSR Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation Boris Pavlovsky told a press conference marking the opening of the Aeroflot summer season.

March 27 he stressed saw the opening of air service between the USSR and Argentina and flights to Tehran will resume on May 5. Preparation is being made for flights to Vladivostok, New York, Los Angeles, Frankfurt, London, Paris, Rome, Athens, and other cities. Aeroflot has been signed We are planning to hold talks with similar agreements with other airlines.

The Soviet IL-86 aircraft, twice a week from Moscow to Frankfurt on the Rhein and to Sofia. It will also make regular flights to Delhi and Hanoi. The plane made a good account of itself in flights which opened last year to Paris and Madrid. Of much importance will be the cutting down of stopovers particularly on long distance lines. For instance, the Moscow-Budapest-London flight will only a stopover in Bratislava for the summer period.

Water comes to Crimea

Water gates were raised on the North Crimean Canal on the Perekop Isthmus to permit Dnieper water to rush inside the peninsula.

Crimean farmers are already accustomed to receive water from the Dnieper four times that of dry farming land.

This year the Dnieper water will feed 5,000 hectares to the arid western part of the region. Over 330,000 hectares are under irrigation in the Crimea.

SOVIET-FINNISH RELATIONS HAVE GOOD PROSPECTS

Helsinki. The signing to 1940 of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid was a wise act. Its importance is getting clearer with every passing year, Finnish Foreign Minister P. Siitonen said.

The 1948 treaty, he stressed, is a permanent and solid base for the development of bilateral relations. We, Finns, will follow this road under the leadership of our new head of state President Mauno Koivisto.

We have always thought a lot of the Soviet Union's support for the development of our relations, the minister stressed, and this was strikingly reflected in a report by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuri Andropov to the celebration meeting in Moscow marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR.

Soviet-Finnish relations, the minister continued, have thus good prospects. Our broad cooperation in the economic, scientific, and cultural areas is highlighted by an atmosphere of sincerely friendship and trust, he emphasized.

FACTS and EVENTS

● The fourth session of the permanent secretariat of the Arab Union of technicians in Algeria has called for an effort to resist US-Israeli imperialism.

● Norway's shipbuilding industry is in a severe crisis, with 15 of the country's 26 major yards on the west coast going without orders this year.

● The administration of the Italian Fiat auto giant decided to slash production and temporarily lay off 34,000 employees, 100,000 each. Fiat laid off in recent years.

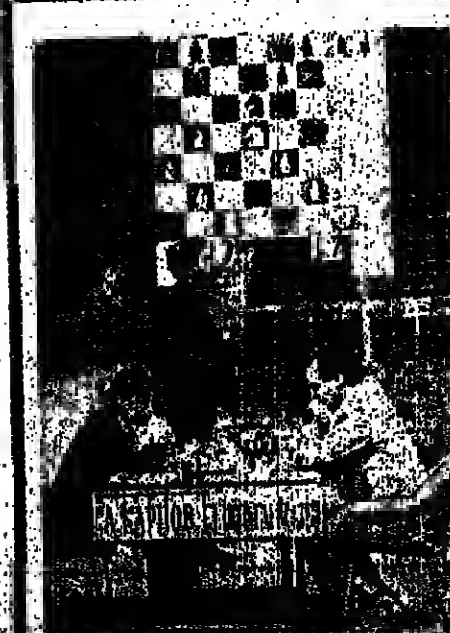
● The USA keeps expanding the network of its military bases and facilities in Germany. The Pentagon is planning to set a big training station for its 3-5 million soldiers in German provinces.

● The 1983-84 season of the world chess championship was held in the Soviet Union.

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13 international grandmasters led by world champion Anatoly Karpov, two international and two national masters have gathered for the national chess championship which has just started in Moscow. Though a national tournament, it has the 13th category rating out of 18 established by FIDE. Certainly no other country could master such a formidable field.

In the photo: the first round in progress. Anatoly Karpov versus Lev Polugayevsky.

Photo by Yuri Tsvetkov

ATTENTION, SUBSCRIBERS ABROAD

DEAR READERS,

"MN Informant" comes out on Tuesday and Saturday, and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. Nothing short of the material carried in the edition of both

"Moscow News" and "MN Informant" gives you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week.

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Address: 16/2 Gorky St., Moscow, USSR

Published Tuesday and Saturday

Index 30074

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Conspiracy against Sandinista revolution

(Continued from page 1)

ice. In a TASS interview the undersecretary for Latin American Affairs, who stressed, could well spill over to the entire continent of Latin America and subvert peace and international security.

In the meantime, "The New York Times" reports that the United States took a very active part in the training and arming of paramilitary groupings prior to their invasion of Nicaragua across the border from Honduras. The American support for

the terrorist gangs continues, and the American Armed Forces give them help of a very direct kind by supplying them with arms and intelligence information about the movements of Nicaraguan government troops, and the deployment of their tanks and artillery. For this purpose, nearly two dozen American military pilots have been sent to Honduras, flying planes fitted up with the latest electronic equipment, they carry out regular flights along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border as part of an operation code-named Royal Duke.

'Peace Corps' wants to return to India

Dafid, Central News Service—TASS. The director of the US "Peace Corps" L. Ruppe addressed the Indian government, requesting it to allow "Corps" volunteers to come to that country for conducting "educational work" among the deprived. As it is known, the last "volunteer" of the "Peace Corps" was dishonorably expelled from India in 1976 for activities incompatible with his status, i.e., for spying. It is also common knowledge that most "volunteers" have been agents of the CIA, FBI, and other secret services. This American organization's agents used chiefly as a cover not only for collecting classified information but also for coordinating antigovernment activities of separatists who

aimed to destabilize India's internal situation. When caught red-handed, the "volunteers" were expelled from India as well as from many other developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Now, when the Reagan administration has undertaken the widely publicized "democracy and public diplomacy programme", which the USA hopes to use to cover large-scale interference into the internal affairs of other countries, developing countries list of which, Washington has selected to employ the "Peace Corps" for this purpose, also. For example, 80 per cent of the allocations of this organization are earmarked for "foreign operations" in the 1984 fiscal year (out of 110 million dollars).

April 1 demo in Britain

Greenham Common. The "nuclear valley" is the gloomy nickname given to several square kilometres of the British county of Berkshire. The valley contains the Greenham Common air base where it is planned to situate American cruise missiles, the Aldermaston centre for nuclear research, and the Royal Ordnance factory in Burghfield.

More than 70 thousand people arrived here from all over Britain to take part in a massive protest demonstration against the Thatcher government policy of speeding up military prepa-

rations. The demonstrators carried placards which read as follows: "No to Cruise Death", "Stop the Nuclear Arms Race", and "Let Us Preserve Peace for Our Children".

The highlight of the demonstration was the human chain that was formed stretching for 14 miles from the Greenham Common air base to the Aldermaston nuclear centre and to the factory producing nuclear weapons in Burghfield. Head in hand, the demonstrators chanted, "We want peace", "We will not let Britain be a Pentagon launch pad".



Why on earth, with the lead I'm giving you, can't you stand on your own legs to our Salvador?

Drawing by Vsevolod Arsenyev

Japan: MILITARY PLANNED REPRISALS

Tokyo. At the request of the Socialist Party, the Budget Committee of the Upper House at the Japanese Parliament has decided to carry out a thorough investigation of a report concerning preparations by the armed forces for large-scale reprisals against the opposition. Deputies to the Japanese legislature expressed misgivings about an address by Kazuo Tanikawa, head of the National Defense Agency, in which he attempted to deny the fact that the Army had been making preparations to suppress democratic organizations. At the same time, he categorically refused to hand over to the Commission the text of secret plans outlining the possible actions the armed forces intend to take in an emergency.

The documents, Mr Tanikawa said, had been destroyed. As was declared to Parliament by A. Kuroyemagi, a Komelio party deputy, these plans provide for the direct suppression of a number of opposition parties to cases of external conflict or internal disturbances.

The ruling Liberal-Democratic Party is now making every effort to stifle the growing scandal. The LDP government will not be able to shrug off the facts which have come to light about the preparations by military circles to launch reprisals against the democratic forces, said O. Yabato, a Socialist deputy in Parliament. The Japanese public is demanding that activities by the military should be placed under strict control.

GROMYKO REPLIES TO REAGAN

(Continued from page 1)

together cover the whole of Europe, the whole of the Asia part of the Soviet Union, and its northernmost part—the Taimyr Peninsula.

The question is of medium-range weapons alone, Andrei Gromyko stressed. Account is not taken here of the American strategic weapons which exist and are aimed at the above-mentioned areas.

The question is whether the Soviet Union has a right for defence purposes to have something to counterpose to these weapons. It has such a right.

THE CHIEF PRINCIPLE

Our policy in questions of both medium-range weapons and strategic weapons, if we go beyond the framework of Europe, is at all costs to preserve the principle of equality and equal security, which has taken shape over the course of many years, Andrei Gromyko emphasized.

The policy of the USA is aimed at violating, destroying this principle. We shall do everything—whether or not there is an agreement—to preserve this principle. Should it be violated as a result of the actions of the governments of the USA and other NATO countries, the Soviet Union would undoubtedly — as one should have any hesitations or doubts on this score — take steps to safeguard its legitimate interests and ensure that this principle continues to operate. And we will do this. For this we have enough material and intellectual capabilities—there must be no doubt about it.

ON THE STYLE OF PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES

Andrei Gromyko pointed out that his press conference was a kind of a reply to the latest statements by the American president. In this connection he noted the unreasonableness of the claims of the American administration, notably, that in its policy it is guided by high moral values.

A state which is engaged in preparations for war, first and foremost nuclear war, cannot demand high moral values, said Andrei Gromyko.

These atrocious words, these invectives in which men in Washington indulge and love to indulge will not add to the possibilities for US foreign policy; they only indicate what they should decency in the conduct of affairs with other states, especially with the Soviet Union, but only when adopted in Washington. Foreign affairs are not conducted in this way.

(The full text of A. Gromyko's press conference is published in the Supplement to "Moscow News", No. 15.)

FACTS AND EVENTS

Two destroyers built by West Germany were handed over to Turkey in a ceremony in the Gelik naval base. The Turkish Navy will soon get two American warships as well.

Over the past 12 months the purchasing power of people in Uruguay dropped by 21.5 per cent.

Japanese taxpayers have to pay 21,790 dollars annually for the upkeep of every American serviceman stationed in Japan.

MAN INFORMATION No. 27, 1983

FACTS AND EVENTS

All real criminals responsible for the deaths of millions of innocent victims, must be punished without exception, said M. Jurek, Deputy Chairman of the Czech National Council. Jurek, speaking at the funeral of Lidice which was held by the real in the last war and its inhabitants murdered.

The American cruise and missile are certainly not weapons of containment. Designed for offensive operations, they are part of a first-strike capability, said Jean Rudick, Chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The government of Ghana has taken a decision to give priority to state hospitals and clinics in the distribution of medical and medical equipment.

The government of Angola has decided to open the country's first college to train social journalists.

THE FRENCH ARE INDIGNANT

Paris. A statement by French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy condemns the murder by the 13-year-old Somoza gangster of the French doctor Pierre Crozier who was in Nicaragua helping to combat epidemics.

The statement points out that Pierre Crozier was the victim of a gang of armed foreign mercenaries who are trying to destabilize the Nicaraguan government installed on the basis of the popular movement which had overthrown the tyranny of the Somoza regime which was condemned throughout the world. The head of the French government has indignantly criticized those responsible for the crime as well as those who inspire them. He stressed that he believed in a search for negotiated peaceful settlements to Central America in the spirit of the Franco-Mexican statement of August 1981.

Crozier's murder by the counter-revolutionaries has been condemned by the Minister for External Relations C. Chirac and the French Socialist Party. The blood of Frenchmen shed in Nicaragua will link our two peoples with kinship of blood in their search for independent development, says a message sent to the National Reconstruction Government by C. Chirac.

Namibia—colony of monopolies

New York. The occupation of Namibia by the South African racist regime has engendered a colonial economy there characterized by the plundering of its natural riches and the brutal exploitation of the native population by South African, American and West European transnational corporations. This is the main conclusion of a report by the UN Council for Namibia prepared for a 10th anniversary conference to support the struggle for independence to be held in Paris, April 25-28.

At present, the report stresses, there are 98 transnational corporations operating in Namibia, among them 25 British, 15 American and eight West German corporations.



There are always a lot of people to the Afghan-Soviet friendship room (photo) attached to the local committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in Ghazni Province. Workers, peasants and schoolchildren come here to inspect various documentary material illustrating the wide-ranging ties and many years of friendship between the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Science and technology

Unlike astronomers from other countries Japanese researchers intend to concentrate their search on the formaldehyde rather than hydrogen wave-length. They believe the spectrum of this substance, whose molecules have been found in the Universe, can be used best of all to carry information.

IMPROVED TOOTH PASTE

Specialists from the Tokyo Medical and Dental University have invented a tooth paste for the effective treatment of tooth decay. Its main ingredients are calcium and phosphorus. According to the "Japan Times", the new tooth paste, called "Appetite", is far superior to all other makes as the market.



This prototype of the so-called R ships, which was made at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, has gone on her maiden voyage to a large test reservoir belonging to the Japanese Ministry of Transport. The 4-metre model of the ship is propelled using the dolphin caudal fin principle. The engineers who designed it say it consumes 30 per cent less fuel than conventional screw propeller vessels.

OF INTEREST

Research vessel to Verne's design

The research vessel "Aquaspace" has been launched in the town of St Malo in France. Designed by Jules Verne, it is a "flying saucer". Many experts say that the bulk of this ship, the famous French engineer Jacques Rouget, "borrowed" the design from Captain Nemo and has actually built an above-water model of the latter's "Nautilus". The twenty-metre aluminium hull of the vessel does indeed look like "Nautilus", the submarine described by Jules Verne in his

novel, "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea". Although "Aquaspace" cannot submerge like its literary prototype, Jacques Rouget expects his round-the-world voyage to be full of exciting characters.

Who said 'm-e-o-o'?

For 40 days on end, residents of an apartment block in a small Swedish town were persecuted by loud moaning but all attempts to hunt down the culprit were in vain while the moaning continued. It was only after the moaning was mysteriously stopped that the culprit was found. It was a cat, and it was known to the animal long known to the

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

LATIN AMERICA: 'BLACK PROPAGANDA' POWERLESS AGAINST OBJECTIVE MARCH OF HISTORY

The revolutionary liberation process in Latin America is developing with exceptional rapidity. The objective march of history drives the American political atrocities into a corner. While trying to defend themselves against contemporary developments, they cannot counterpose social progress with anything other than a medieval propaganda slogans based on 100 per cent deceit. Repeating it for the 100th or 1,000th time, shaking it like a moth ball, they latch up yet again the low-rate myth about "the hand of Moscow and Havana". As during the "dirty war" in Vietnam, the absurdly primitive "domino theory" is coming back into vogue: fates of whole peoples are shamelessly compared to skittles which fall down one after another, and this cheap gadget is used to scare the American and to take on additional million dollars for military purposes out of his pocket.

All this propaganda campaign blown up around the mythical "Soviet-Cuban interference", a play whose obscurity even repels many of America's Western partners, was started by Washington with the sole purpose of trying to find some justification for its avaricious interventionist course in Central America. Apparently no more suitable weapon was found in the ideological storehouses of the White House.

HEAVY OIL SCENT TURNS THEIR HEAD

The SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper writes that the American special Middle East envoy (Habb) is seeking to obtain several goals at a time, and that the latest American proposals aim in the same direction.

They add up in creating a "security belt" in Lebanon, with Israeli troops being replaced in patrolling southern areas by Israeli siege (Habb) and American units from the "multinational force".

This clearly provides Washington with the opportunity of expanding the scope of US Marine operations in Lebanon, as well as of indirectly dropping on their heads, they stress.

Stimulated by the heavy scent of oil and of dividends from a new arms race in the region, it would appear the aggressive rules of the United States and Israel are guided by the example of David Crockett as regards their actions, but it is evident that the confrontation now raging in the Middle East could spill over continents. It is imperative to nip any such possibility in the bud, the paper points out.

BALKANS SUPPORT A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE

Commenting on a recent Sofia International round-table discussion on the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, PRAVDA emphasizes that unlike regions such as the Antarctic and Latin America, where the deployment of nuclear weapons has already been banned by the 1959 and 1967 international conventions, the Balkans, which were notorious in the past as the European "powder key", is now the centre of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO confrontation. This circumstance curiously impedes the establishment of any such nuclear-free zone and at the same time imports a vital political significance to it.

The above conference, sponsored by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, indicates that the idea of nuclear-free zones is gaining in popularity, at the same time, it points to the mounting public desire (in particular of such influential people as scientists) for positive action against the heading of nuclear arsenals, for equitable cooperation between East and West, and for détente and peace, the paper emphasizes.

WEST GERMANY: LONG SHADOWS OF NAZISM

The Nazi era has cast a sinister shadow over the present-day Western world and not least on Federal Republic, writes the NEW TIMES magazine. Between 1945 and 1981 court action was brought against 87,765 persons in the FRG. This would seem a big figure but it is infinitesimally small, if one takes into account the fact that the SS alone, which was condemned in Nuremberg as being a criminal organization, was 800,000-strong by the end of the war (for the total 40,000 members were in the upper echelons, over 100,000 in punitive units, and 40,000 in "death camps"). So what happens to the remaining 87,765 persons—charges were dropped against 78,838 of them!

Is this not enough evidence of the cynicism and hypocrisy of the overseas propagandists who would like to equate Western values with the supreme ideal humanism—the paper queries. There is "a lot to be said" for the "human rights" advocates who use the services of Nazi criminals to advance their own interests, the magazine concludes.



Dwarf trees—a fad with Czechs

Of great popularity in Czechoslovakia is the growing of dwarf trees, or bonsai. This includes all fruit trees, in South-East Asia almost 1,700 years ago.

In Prague, a bonsai society has been established with more than 500 members. In the photo this tree is nearly two decades old.

Round
the Soviet
Union

● THE MINISTRY OF THE POWER INDUSTRY AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE USSR HAS APPROVED PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT ON THE YITIM RIVER IN THE AREA OF THE BAKAL-AMUR RAILROAD. NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN EASTERN SIBERIA. The two million kW station will supply cheap electricity for vast areas in the east of the country where extensive reserves of useful minerals have been prospected.

● OMAR ELADORY, THE WELL-KNOWN SCULPTOR FROM THE CAUCASIAN REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, HAS COMPLETED A SCULPTURAL COMPOSITION OF KARL MARX AND FRIEDRICH ENGELS, IN HONOUR OF THE 65TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF KARL MARX. Other leading artists from the republic have also done works in commemoration of these two dates. In the capital, Baku, a monument to Karl Marx is to be unveiled in one of the squares. The sculptor is Ibrahim Zaimov.

● SPECIALISTS FROM MAJOR MINING AND METALLURGIC ENTERPRISES CAME BACK FROM LENINGRAD WITH DESIGNS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LANDSCAPES AND WATER RESERVOIRS. The engineers were given diplomas in ecology and rational use of natural resources at a special retraining department of the Leningrad Mining Institute.

● AGRICULTURAL AVIATION HAS STARTED OPERATING OVER THE FIELDS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF THE USSR. They are spraying fertilizers now. The planes' chief advantage is their being able to operate over large areas in short periods of time. Agricultural aviation facilities increased yields of 2 hundred kg per hectare.

Construction of pipelines in the USSR

The Soviet Union is being successful in its attempt to ensure a sharp rise in the production of Siberian natural gas and its transportation to the European part of the country. In the current five-year plan period (1981-85) three 1,420 mm

MOSCOW'S LITERARY INSTITUTE



Yuri Soderstrom, a young prose writer from Guyana (an autonomous republic in the Far East) during the discussion of his thesis.



Freshman (left to right) Ulughbek Dolyev, Irina Piler from the USSR, and Bolko Lambovsky from Bulgaria, will become fiction translators.

These photographs were taken at the Literary Institute in Moscow which was set up 30 years ago in the initiative of the writer Maxim Gorky and which is named after him. Its students are drawn from every constituent republic and represent 40 Soviet nationalities. There are also foreign students. It has educated quite a few talented men of letters who now make up the nucleus of many interesting national literatures.

It is not easy to enroll at the institute. Unlike other educational establishments, the usual entrance examinations here are replaced with a writing test for which more than a thousand entries are received every year. The entries are examined by prominent Soviet writers, poets, playwrights, and critics — who will later give attention to the authors of the papers once they have been admitted to the institute in the genre of their

choosing: prose, poetry, translation of fiction, drama, and literary criticism.

Seminars at the institute are conducted by famous Soviet writers. In the past, they have included Alexander Fadeyev, Konstantin Fedin, and Konstantin Paustovsky. Today, they are led by people like Valentin Kiselev, Alexander Rakemchuk and the famous playwright Viktor Rozov (photo).

Not all the graduates become writers. They are employed at publishing houses, at editorial offices of newspapers and magazines, on radio, or television. The writers Konstantin Simonov, Yuri Bondarov, Yuri Trilov, and Yevgeny Yevushenko, to name but a few, are among the more famous of the institute's graduates. Approximately one half of all the graduates become professional writers and members of the Writers Union.



Photos by Georgi Sirelnikov

BENEFITS
OF SMALL
HYDROELECTRIC
POWER STATIONS

The Kirghiz power authorities, having a chain of powerful hydroelectric power stations, decided to resurrect small country "Hydros" as well.

This Central Asian Republic has established a service for reconstructing such stations. This has turned out to be economically viable. There is another side to this, too. It is simply unreasonable to neglect the power of a river which has plenty of water during the summer and winter. Besides, no reservoir is needed for the small station, since unrestricted flow is sufficient.

There are dozens of such stations in the republic. After reconstruction they will be able to produce up to 70 million kilowatt-hours of power annually. Thousands of tonnes of equivalent fuel will be saved as a result.

In Kirghizia, they are researching other lesser power sources, too. Several power stations have been designed with a capacity of 1.5 to 30 kilowatts. Compact light units, which are already in operation at distant winter pastures. They pump water to the automatic water troughs and are used for lighting and electric appliances.

FORESTS
ON SAND
DUNES

The Korkum Canal as well as other of Turkmenistan's irrigation structures and reservoirs will be safely protected against the moving and dune. New woods have been added to the old ones planted along the shores. Drought-resistant trees have been planted on more than 90,000 hectares — holodnichker, and kandyk, two kinds of them of distant pastures to add to the feed there.

More than 10 million hectares are taken up by desert woods in this republic, much of them planted by men. Every year the wood area is extended by thousands of hectares. The progressive sapling method provides for better plant rooting in the desert.

In the world has such a huge construction programme. The length of the welded part of the world's longest Siberia-West Europe gas pipeline approaches 3,000 kilometres. It is planned to complete construction before the end of 1983. The annual capacity of the line will be 32,000 million cubic metres of gas.

ment by gas, which is cheaper. Over the next five-year period it is planned to lay six trans-continental gas pipelines from Siberia to the central part of the country. The total length of these pipelines will exceed 20,000 kilometres and they will pump gas at a pressure of 75 atmospheres. No other country

operations are available in several other climes. What is special about the techniques used by Krasnoyarsk surgeons?

Writing in the SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper, Professor P. Makarov stresses that for the first time in the country's medical practice keratoma, a technique for restoring eyesight, is being undertaken not by a research institute but at a regional eye microsurgery centre, in Krasnoyarsk, which serves over 35,000,000 people resident in Siberia and the Far East. Every day Siberian surgeons carry out nearly 50 microsurgery or laser eye operations; already over 5,000 people have had their eyesight restored and are back to work.

Of supreme importance, the paper points out, is the fact that the centre combines both surgery and rehabilitation treatment.

PROTECTION FOR
SEA ANIMALS

The number of Komchatka baevras, inhabiting the islands of the Kuril Chain in the Soviet Far East, has shot up 26 times over the past 30 years, writes PRAVDA. The species is no longer threatened with extinction. There was a time that the animal was mercilessly destroyed owing to its unusually beautiful and valuable fur. Hunting them was an easy business, for, unfortunately, the hovers have a spectacularly friendly and gullible nature in addition to stupendous fur. It is hardly surprising that they were almost wiped out. The same fate overtook the Kuril seals, which also have good-looking fur and this is why it is now everywhere forbidden to hunt them, types of animal, and their places of habitation have been made into nature reserves. Measures have been drafted to improve the

living conditions of these and other sea animals inhabiting the Kuril Islands, for instance, sea lions and fur-seals. Hunting them is strictly forbidden, the paper points out.

LASER TECHNOLOGY
ON THE UPSWING

The development of laser technology is convincing evidence that scientific discoveries are essential to economic advancement, contends V. Velikhov, Vice-President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, writing in EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA. The laser has reached the stage of development and already put to many uses.

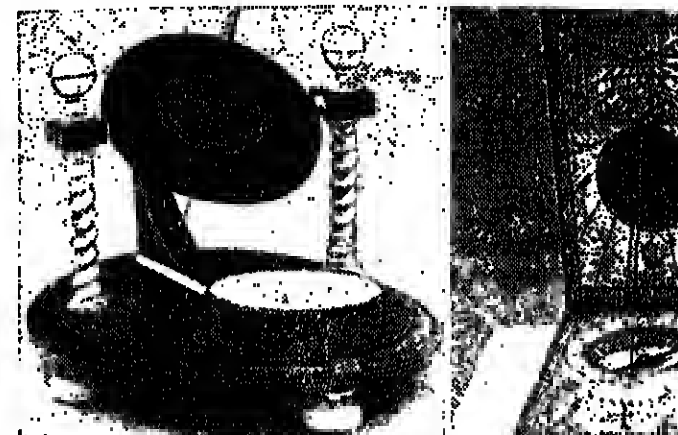
A special scientific and technological programme, "Development and production of laser equipment for the national economy", is being implemented with the aim of speeding up the introduction of laser technology in industry in the 11th five-year plan period (1981-85). The programme envisages the development of industrial lasers and the creation of an industrial base for large-scale production of laser systems, etc.

Laser treatment as well as laser process control are to be introduced in industry. The laser will also be used in the chemical industry as well as in biology, environmental protection, construction, irrigation, communications, computers, printing and publishing, and in video recording and processing. In the long term the laser will help come to grips with controlled nuclear fusion, Velikhov points out.

Places to visit

You got the time, Sun?

An exposition in the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad shows a collection of timepieces which never ticked although served people faithfully for a number of centuries. They are sun, moon, and sidereal clocks — the earliest instruments for finding the time. Clocks of various types, designs, and epochs made in different countries are collected here.



They include a large collection of instruments which were made in the 16th and 19th centuries by masters who worked in Berlin, Germany, Holland, France, and Italy. Some original pieces were made by famous scientists, artists, and jewellers.

One exposition section exhibits the collection of Peter I who himself designed and made sun clocks on his workshop desk and wrote several instructions on how to make the complicated instruments.

In the photos: a universal sun clock which Peter I helped make (18th century); to the centre — a sun clock by the German master P. Reimann (Nuremberg, 1599); right — a sun and moon clock by the English master Henry Wims (early 18th century).

Science
and technologyANOTHER
CENTRE FOR LASER

Last February, a centre for laser surgery was set up in Turkmenia, a constituent republic to Central Asia. A surgical laser department opened up at the regional clinical hospital and an outpatient laser study at the city clinic.

The first laser operations here were carried out two years ago under the guidance of specialists from Moscow. In time, the Turkmen surgeons have become the first to learn how to operate on the eyelids of patients with the use of the laser. Today, such instruments operate in a number of hospitals and are supplied to the clinics of the republic. When they were trained in Moscow, they acquired considerable experience in performing operations with the use of the "light sword".

CRATER DISCOVERED
FROM SPACE

Soviet scientists have discovered the most ancient meteorite crater in this country. Only the craters in Sudbury, Canada, and Vredefort, South Africa, are older. It was found by means of photographs made from outer space. Using them to explore the remote mountainous taiga area in Yakutia, which lies in the north-east of the Soviet Union, specialists came across the crater, the result of a gigantic collision which took place more than a thousand million years ago.

IS THERE LIGHTNING
ON JUPITER?

Researchers at the Institute of Radio Physics and Electronics of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences used the world's largest decimetric radio telescope to spot a mammoth lightning bolt on Jupiter. In a flow of powerful radio emissions from there, they selected short impulses with all the characteristics of electric charges. Specialists believe that each such lightning bolt is no less in size than the earth's radius.

Potential
of a new plant

Scientists see much leeway in growing grains with predetermined qualities in the development of new wheat and rye hybrids. For instance, the Irkutsk plant, which has never been produced naturally, is a wheat and rye crossbreed.

The right to grow in the field has been granted simultaneously to several new strains of Irkutsk. Among them is the hybrid, Prig 1. It has no equals in the strength of the spring harvest: a hectare of it yields up to sixty tonnes of highly nutritious green mass.

Another fodder strain, Al-tai-1, was grown in the Altai

Research Institute of Farming and Agricultural Selection and has crops of between forty and fifty tonnes per hectare. The plant is drought and frost resistant.

Agronomists are already making use of quite a few promising forms of the new plant called by scientists the "bread of the future". This country is the world's major producer of Irkutsk, which is sown to 200,000 hectares.

Scientists are working on new plant strains, as the country has come to grips with the purpose-oriented "Irkutsk" programme.

Bats under protection

A bat has trustfully made itself comfy in the palm of Inara Bus, a researcher at the Latvian State University. The bat's conduct is surprising for such animals are active at night and generally hide from people. When still a baby and having lost its mother the bat was adopted by the Bus family who raised it. It has so grown accustomed to her master as to answer her calls, perch on her shoulder, and be handled. Inara Bus, who is studying bats at the university's biological department.

The magnificent five

Batumi's oceanarium has some new additions — fur-seals were added to the dolphins and tortoises already there. There are five of them and they are adopting very quickly to the place of Black Sea coast. Specialists are already training them for demonstration performance alongside the dolphins.



From the "Vostok" in the "Morskoy" water.

OF INTEREST

Gulliver's
apple

A three-kilogramme apple has been grown by Tatyana Shteyn, a student at the biology department of Irkutsk University. She achieved this by leaving only a few blossoms on a young apple tree in spring when the ovaries appeared, she selected the two biggest. One of these grew into a huge apple and props had to be put under the tree to stop the branch breaking. This jumbo apple would have been enough to treat all the students in Tatyana's year. The students' science society, however, decided to present the apple to the Economic Achievements Exhibition of the Korkum Republic where it is to be displayed in the agricultural pavilion.

Annually, 30 to 40 per cent of all workers acquire new skills and better qualifications. Today, the emphasis here is placed on the quality of professional retraining. The rapid progress in science and technology demands that the workers should not only constantly improve their skills, but also, as often happens, change his skills altogether.

Creation
of nature

A bridge located two kilometres from the mountainous Kuruk village is one of Dagestan's natural wonders.

The nearly 50 m bridge spans a deep gorge and is a natural creation, consisting of solid rock overhanging the gorge. Its average width is eight metres and it is four metres thick.



Photo by Boris Chudakov

VIEWPOINT

BILLIONS
OF ROUBLES
SPENT
ON RETRAINING
WORKERS

Gleb SPIRIDONOV

Last year, vocational schools in this country trained nearly 2.6 million skilled young workers. Another 45 million people learned to do new jobs or improved their skills. Millions of rubles are annually spent for this purpose by the state and industry.

Modern production makes growing demands not only on equipment, but, first and foremost, on workers who build and operate these machines. There is a growing need for workers to be more responsive to new requirements and to be constantly prepared to improve and expand their previous skills and knowledge.

After leaving the vocational schools, many young men and women acquire not only the relevant qualifications, but also a secondary education. In the current five-year plan of 1981-85, this country is to train nearly 13 million young workers, of whom 7.5 million have a secondary education.

However, the predominant type of training and retraining of workers in the Soviet Union is the on-the-job system. Industries give much of their attention to raising the skills of their employees. They create the necessary conditions for a constant growth in the professional standards and general educational level of their employees.

Annually, 30 to 40 per cent of all workers acquire new skills and better qualifications. Today, the emphasis here is placed on the quality of professional retraining. The rapid progress in science and technology demands that the workers should not only constantly improve their skills, but also, as often happens, change his skills altogether.

Soviet economists believe that in a modern industry, every worker or an average ought to go through a period of retraining at least once every five years. This regularly is not observed in some places. At the same time, in a number of major industries, the period between retraining sessions is much shorter. Over the past five-year plan period, for example, frequency of retraining was three years in enterprises of the iron and steel industry, in heavy industry, transport engineering, and geology.

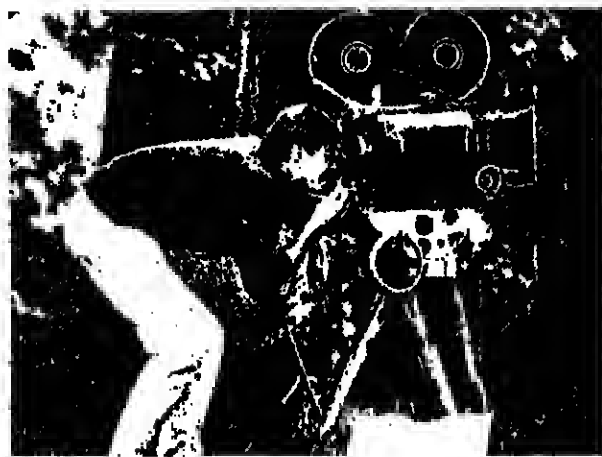
Modern industries increasingly need workers with a wide range of skills and a broad professional outlook, people who are able to do several jobs in the same industry and the construction of enterprises for heavy industry, for example, between seven and ten per cent of workers employed learn new skills every year.

Experience shows that this means a considerable amount of labour to be moved through a more rational use of workers on the basis of expanded or mutually interchangeable work.

ENTERTAINMENT

PROFILES

Georgi RERBERG



Georgi Rerberg is often called a "camera artist" or "master of cinema painting". This is not accidental. The films he makes are distinguished by the plasticity of their images, their peculiar internal rhythm and harmony.

Rerberg came to the cinema in the sixties, i.e. in the period which was later to become known as "the camera-work renaissance", a time when brilliant and highly individual camera styles blossomed. This was the time that the following outstanding films, gripping the imagination of moviegoers, made their appearance: "The Letter that Was Never Sent" and "I Am Cuba" — cameraman Sergei Usovsky; "Ismet" — cameraman Jonas Orlov; "I Am Twenty" — cameraman Margarita Pilikhina, and many others.

Another exceptional movie of this period was "The First Teacher", the first film of director Andrei Konchalovskiy and of cameraman Georgi Rerberg. Later, they were to make another three films, "Aunt's Happiness", "A Nest of Centaurs" and "Utoch Vasya", each very different in style and approach. The harsh, blinding light, the contrasts in black and white tones, and the expressiveness of the "First Teacher" were succeeded by the soft and delicate patterns of "A Nest of Centaurs", where the old owner houses, and the avenues of (Helen) trees in the park with its steers, benches to a deserted garden, trees, sky, and flowers were lit with striking plasticity. The characters merged with nature and with the world they inhabited. This was a still broad days gone by infused with new life.

Although every frame produced by Rerberg can be looked upon as a painting in its own right to view of the depth, colorful way and imagination with which it is built up, he does not shoot separate frames, but the entire film, which is a complete work of art, to the final point, after all, what we see on the screen is what is seen by the cameraman. And the camera's eye is the result of a common vision of the world held by director, cameraman and actors.

"The Mirror" by Andrei Tarkovsky, Andrei Konchalovskiy's films, "Father Sergius" by Sergei Bodrov and "Star-tail" by Igor Tarkovskiy are all Rerberg's work — a professional cameraman at the highest class and a gifted personality.

Asked to an interview, "What place does art occupy in your life? What do you see as the meaning of art?" — he answered, "I cannot imagine days without music, books, paintings or films. All this has become an inalienable part of life. It is art that helps people attain moral perfection. My dream is that the films I make approach great art."

Yelena UVAROVA

Jazzman of the year

The Latvian newspaper "Sovetskaya Molodyozh" has conducted a poll among its readers to find out who they consider to be the best performers of Soviet jazz. Most of their votes went to alto saxophonist Vladimir Chekasin of Moscow, who thus became jazzman of the

year. Other musicians who attracted a number of votes are pianist Leonid Chizhik, from Moscow, and tenor saxophonist Raimonds Rubins of Riga. Jazz is very popular in the Soviet Union and jazz festivals are regularly held in Moscow, Riga, Baku and other towns.



A scene from the play, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", by American dramatist Dale Wasserman, premiered by the Gorky Theatre, in Moscow.

Photo by Mikhail Stokov

SOVIET PUBLISHERS IN 1982

In 1982, this country published more than 60 thousand titles of books and pamphlets in nearly two thousand million copies. Thus reported the USSR State Publishing Committee which is responsible for publishing, printing and book sales nationwide.

At present, the USSR has 212 national and local publishing houses. These are either state-owned, or belong to public organizations, such as "Sovietetskiy Pisatel", for instance, which is a publisher for the Soviet Writers Union. There are no privately owned publishers in this country.

More books are published with every passing year, but, nevertheless, demand still far exceeds the number of titles is-

nued, particularly in works of fiction and literature for children. For this reason output in the last two categories is being stepped up.

According to the All-Union Book Chamber, the overall volume of production of fiction and books for children has increased by more than a hundred million copies over the past two years alone. The Soviet Union leads the world in number of translations published. According to UNESCO statistics, it issues four times as many translations as the United States, four and a half times more than Japan, and nine times as many as in Britain. Works by writers from Latin America, Asia and Africa account for a considerable amount of the translations.

All-Union Film Festival for Leningrad

Well-known film workers from all the socialist countries have been invited to attend the All-Union Film Festival which is to take place in May in Leningrad. More than a hundred films from all the republics in the country will be shown. In addition to the four edit juries there will be a jury made of children, who, in accordance with tradition, will award a prize to the feature film or cartoon most popular with younger audiences.

PIROSMAN'S DREAM COMES TRUE

The self-taught Georgian artist Pirosmant once dreamed of building "a big house in the centre of the city" to act as a magnet for all lovers of the arts. When restoration work is finished on Pirosmant's House in the centre of the Georgian capital it will exactly fit this description. It will accommodate a permanent exhibition of works by the famous painter and together with the Museum of the Arts of Georgia, will form a single exhibition complex.

Pirosmant's paintings are to be found throughout the world. Most of them — 158 — are in the possession of the Museum of the Arts of Georgia, others are in museums in Moscow, Leningrad, and in the Louvre, in Paris.

There are also some works in private collections both in the Soviet Union and abroad.

Without a home of his own, Pirosmant painted his wonderful pictures wherever he happened to be staying, very often in return for board and lodging. The Georgian republic has set up a commission to locate and catalogue Pirosmant's works. Much money has been earmarked for the search, acquisition and restoration of the paintings which are to form part of new exhibition.

Folk festival in ballet

The Novruz folk festival serves as the basis for a ballet, which was given its first performance recently at the Akhmed Navoi Theatre in Uzbekistan.

It has long been my dream to create a modern ballet representative of Uzbek folk choreography, said the producer, well-known Uzbek ballerina Q. Ismailova. We seek to display the many-faceted and inimitable charm of dancing from Bukhara, Andizhan, Khorezm, Ferghana and Tashkent.

The ballet, called "Novruz", forms part of a series of works by the Novruz Theatre which is getting ready to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. This year, the theatre will be producing masterpieces of Russian and world classical ballet as well as modern works.

Moscow art shows

Two one-man exhibitions are on view at the Central Artists Club at 10/14 Kravskiy Val. One is devoted to the works of People's Artist of the Armenian SSR Arutyunyan. He is the author of many monuments, sculptural compositions and oil portraits of public figures, artists and scientists. Included in the exhibition are pieces of sculpture, drawings and photographs of monuments done by the artist.

The other one-man show features works by People's Artist of the Lithuanian SSR Silvestras Dziukaitis. It is made up of paintings depicting revolutionary events in Lithuania and the



Silvestras Dziukaitis. "A Woman and a Black Horse".

struggle of the Lithuanian people against the fascist invaders, as well as contemporary life in the republic, landscapes and portraits.



Arutyunyan. "Komitas".

WHAT'S ON?

April 5-8

THEATRES

Kremles Palace of Congresses (Kremles), 4 — A Variety Concert. Bolshoi Theatre performances: 8 — Verdi, "Il Trovatore" (opera). 7 — Stravinsky, "The Firebird"; "Petrushka" (one-act ballet). 8 — Puccini, "Madama Butterfly" (opera).

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq.), 5 — Khachaturian, "Spartacus" (ballet). 8 — Shchedrin, "The Sea Gull" (ballet). 7 — Double-bill: Rimsky-Korsakov, "Mozart and Salieri"; Tchaikovsky, "Iolanthe" (opera). 8 — Bizet, "Carmen" (opera).

Stankovskiy and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St.), 8 — Double-bill: Tchaikovsky, "Francesca da Rimini" (ballet). 7 — Double-bill: Schubert, "Evening Dances"; McLaughlin, "Boomerang" (one-act ballet). 8 — Rossini, "The Barber of Seville". Opera Theatre, 5 — Glinka, "A Life for the Tsar". 7 —

FILMS

Festival of Hungarian Film. Cinema "Zhdanovskiy" (17 Leskovskaya St.). Metro Medvedkovo. Bus 278, 259. "Zaryadye" (17 Moskovskaya St.). Metro Ploshchad Nigina. A Married Bachelor (Gorky Film Studio, USSR).

The hero was the heart of his beloved by using all his ingenuity and fantasy. Cinema "Rossiya" (Pushkinskaya St.). Metro Pushkinskaya. "Oktyabr" (Pushkinskaya St.). Metro Arbat. "Ilina". Metro Arbat.

EXHIBITIONS

Pushkinskaya Museum of Fine Arts (12 Vokzalnaya). An exhibition of old watercolours and sketches drawn from various sources and private collections. Moscow and Leningrad. 8 p.m. except Monday, 10 p.m. On Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Metro Kropotkinskaya.

BUSINESS

ALL ABOUT TRANSPORT CONSTRUCTION



Experience in the construction of hydroelectric facilities, railways, metros, bridges and tunnels accumulated in various countries is the subject of an international exhibition of equipment and machinery for transport construction. Transstroy-82, which is to open later this week in Moscow. Taking part will be about 200 firms and organizations from 14 countries and West Berlin.

The Soviet Union, represented by Energiyastroy, is displaying a track layer, a diesel railway inspection car as well as other machines and equipment. The USSR's vast territory makes imperative large-scale transport construction. Attention is now being concentrated on the development of transport communications between Siberia

and the Far East on the one hand and this country's centre on the other. Large-scale economic projects open good prospects for cooperation with other countries. Apart from nationally made technology, this country's construction sites use equipment manufactured both in the socialist and developed capitalist countries.

According to its sponsors, Transstroy-82 will contribute towards a further expansion of cooperation in this field.

Foreign experts will deliver a number of lectures during the exhibition and commercial talks and exchange of experience will take place.

Transstroy-82 is to open from April 8 through April 17 at pavilion No. 1 of the Krasnaya Presnya expo complex.

Round-table discussions in Soviet capital

A recent Soviet-British round-table meeting in Moscow on the subject of development of bilateral scientific, technological, trade and economic cooperation centered on a wide range of issues relating to international economic cooperation, to the impact of contemporary technology on the economy, world energy

and raw material resources, to international finance problems, and to the organization and management of industrial production.

The meeting was sponsored by the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology and the Confederation of British Industry.

ANNIVERSARY DELIVERY

Soviet suppliers have handed over their 100th SR-1 main line electric locomotive to Finnish railways.

The locomotive was designed by Soviet engineers jointly with the Finnish firm of Strömberg. Having successfully undergone

tests on Finnish railway lines, these Soviet locomotives have been supplied serially to Finland since 1975. Their high operation standards, reliability and simple maintenance have earned them high praise from Finnish railway experts.

GAS FOR WEST BERLIN

In accordance with an earlier agreement envisaging, via coordination with the GDR government, delivery of Soviet natural gas to West Berlin, talks have been held in West Berlin between the Soviet delegation led by N. Ostrov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of

the USSR, the GDR delegation and representatives of Ruhrgas. Also present were members of the West Berlin GASAG company.

Appropriate documents were signed, with 1985 being set as the target date for gas deliveries to begin.

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

The Central Army Club Sports Gym (39 Leningradsky Prospekt), 7 — Central Army Club vs Yerevan Ararat, 7 p.m. In their 44th bout in the national championships the latter won 18 and the former 18 games, while the rest was drawn.

ICE HOCKEY Krylya Sovetov Palace of Sport (10 Tolukhina St.), 8 — Moscow Krylya Sovetov vs Gorky Torpedo, 6.45 p.m. Though this is a most unfortunate season for both teams one may look forward to an exciting game.

RACING

Hippodrome (22 Begovaya St.), 6 and 8 — Racing and trotting, 8 p.m. (both days).

State Bank of the USSR

Foreign exchange quotations for April 4, 1983		English pound	
Currency	Quotations in roubles	100	194.55
Australian dollar	100	63.04	100
Canadian dollar	100	59.52	100
Denmark krona	100	2.47	100
French franc	100	6.55	100
German mark	100	1.36	100
Indian rupee	100	7.18	100
Japanese yen	100	163.26	100
Norwegian krona	100	5.48	100
Swedish krona	100	5.48	100
Swiss franc	100	2.20	100
US dollar	100	22.45	100

PLOVDIV GETTING READY FOR THE FAIR

The Bulgarian city of Plovdiv has been holding its traditional fair for some 80 years already. Today there are large international events, attracting thousands of foreign firms.

A press conference held at the Bulgarian Trade Office in Moscow was devoted to the upcoming spring fair. The spring event, said Bulgarian Trade representative Georgi Dzhembov, is an exposition of consumer goods and foodstuffs. Its aim is to contribute to the creation of a higher living standard for our people and a more complete satisfaction of their growing needs.

Socialist countries take an active part in the fair. Bulgaria will show the positive results of its industrialized national economy and sophisticated production. Modern designs will be on show, as well as waste-free and energy-saving technology.

Seventeen Soviet organizations will take part in this year's spring fair, including Avtoexport, Raznoexport, Morshinorodneye Knigi, Intourist, Armele will present an exposition of its own.

The Plovdiv fair, stressed Georgi Dzhembov, are enjoying greater and greater popularity. Thus, at last year's spring fair contracts were signed to a total of 602 million leva, and the autumn technical fair resulted in 3,000 million leva worth of contracts.

GROWING INTEREST IN CZECHOSLOVAK R&D

"Kalioterm", a new heat-proof material developed in Czechoslovakia, surpasses similar materials produced by leading Western firms in terms of heat resistance and other characteristics. It has been developed by the Institute of Materials Research in Prague. The material is on display at the Czechoslovak "Insulation — materials of the future" show, now taking place in Moscow. Withstanding temperatures of up to 1,000°C it is invaluable for building various furnaces, heat exchangers and heat batteries.

This exhibition of Czechoslovak achievements in the building industry is of great interest to Soviet specialists, said Ivan Ganichev, Vice-Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Construction, at the opening ceremony. The Soviet Union is steadily increasing the scale of its construction work. For instance, during the current five-year plan period (1981-85) there are plans to achieve all power increment in the European part of the country through nuclear power plants. We will build powerful thermal nuclear plants, each of them capable of providing heat for a town with many thousands of residents without polluting the environment. In this respect, heat-proof materials take on great importance. This is why they are known as the materials of the future. We are much interested in new products and will also hold commercial talks, Ganichev stressed.

SOVIET RAIL (SZD) BRINGS ANY TRIP WITHIN YOUR MEANS AND MAKES IT MORE PLEASANT THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

SZD coaches are provided with everything you need to travel in comfort. Cozy compartments, first-class service plus traditional Russian hospitality will contribute to your good mood and make your journey a relaxing and agreeable experience.

Every train within the Soviet territory is equipped with a dining-car where you will be served breakfast, lunch and dinner. Various hors-d'oeuvres, vintage wines, juice, fruit, tobacco and sweets are also available.

Your expenses will be minimal, as rail is the least expensive form of travel.

Organized groups of 10 or more adult passengers are entitled to discounts on the services linking Moscow with Aachen, Hamburg, Bern, Ostend, Frankfurt, Holland, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Turin, Athens, Istanbul, Stockholm, Oslo, Helsinki, Copenhagen; or Leningrad with Cologne and Helsinki or Kiev with Paris. Discounts amount to between 25 to 40 per cent of your ticket.

For further information on Soviet sleeping car services please contact your nearest travel agent or Intourist office. Soviet Rail will always be glad to welcome you aboard their trains!



Contacts and contracts

Q TASS and Priglaseniye Press of Britain have signed an agreement envisaging joint publication and distribution abroad of the "Ecolass", a bulletin of economic and commercial information. It will appear in English, French, German and Italian.

Intourist news

Oh, your young men are so courteous — when we paid a visit to a ballroom-dancing group of the Pioneer Police on the Lenin Hills all our girls were invited to dance. Among our other activities in Moscow we looked through a telescope, and inspected a postcard. We also played volleyball in the P. Tagilov school in Leningrad where they teach football. We found it very easy to meet people. You see this pile of addresses — we are certainly going to keep in touch. And later...

It was in this way that Luch Valvo, a 15-year-old lycée student from Syracuse with a typical Italian temperament, shared her impressions of a visit to the USSR, taking pride, in the process, of the fact that she was being interviewed for

Q The biggest contact since the establishment of economic cooperation between the USSR and Bangladesh has been signed in Moscow by Soviet V/O Technopromexport and the Department of Energy at the Bangladesh Ministry of Power and Natural Resources. The former undertakes to design the project of end to deliver materials and equipment for the power station at Gorail.

It all began with a story

the first time in her life and in Moscow, of all places.

The whole thing was started with a tourist trip to the USSR undertaken last year by a teacher from a lycée in Syracuse. His description of his journey made such a big impact on us that we all decided to go on a trip together. Thanks to the efforts of our teachers, our group of 70 pupils and staff has been able to spend eight days in the Soviet Union and to see Moscow and Leningrad.

Our trip was nothing short of a real discovery for all of us, says lycée director Costa Giddio Concha, and it is great that the children of two peoples have become friends. I have no doubt that when they grow up they will build on these links and this is very important.

Konstantin KOKOSHKIN

